

EDUCATIONAL TRUNKS available to teachers in NW Montana

FireWorks – (Grades K-12) – 2 trunks locally: free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) and free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor's Office 406/758-5204) – Interactive, hands-on material to study the forces that cause change in forests, particularly wildland fire. Activities and lessons in the curriculum are tied to a collection of teaching tools to help students learn about fire ecology in three kinds of forests found in the northern Rocky Mountains. Curriculum linked to national educational standards. For more information and to download the curriculum visit the following web site: <http://www.firelab.org>

Songbird Kit – (Grades K-8) – free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) also available for \$35 plus shipping from Museum of the Rockies or Sacagawea Chapter of the Audubon Society, see web links at end -- This dynamic trunk has activities geared for the classroom as well as outdoors relating to songbirds. Resource materials, activities, videos, a felt storyboard, posters, recorded bird songs, and puppets all help students learn more about the natural history of several songbirds.

Wolf Trunk – (Grades K-6) – free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) and free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor's Office 406/758-5204) – Includes pelts, skulls, tapes of wolf howls, videos, track casts and activity guide. Great for learning about predator/prey relationships and food chains.

Bear Trunk – (Grades K-12) – free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) – Background material, research guides, and props to facilitate discussions about bears of the world, their habitats, and food sources. Emphasis is on black and grizzly bears including how to tell them apart and how to hike/camp safely in bear country. Activity guide and sample lesson plan included. With additional materials available on the web, upper grades can benefit from information regarding scientific method and results of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem DNA research study to determine population size as well as information about listing of the grizzly bear as an endangered species.

Climate Change Trunk – (Grades 6-8) – free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) – A complete set of materials to conduct the 2-week unit from Facing the Future: “Climate Change: Connections and Solutions.” Videos, web links, books, and hands-on interactive games help students understand the basics behind the science of climate change as well as the social and economic implications.

Glacier's Plant Invaders – (Grades 3-6) - free from Glacier National Park (laura_law@nps.gov) – Materials in this trunk were put together for upper elementary school field trips to learn about science and one way to collect data on non-native, invasive plants in Glacier National Park. Students learn about 4 species – Spotted knapweed, St. Johnswort, Houndstongue, and Oxeye daisies. There are sample data sheets, identification guides, a power point, and background information about doing science and why these plants are not wanted here.

Wilderness and Land Ethic Box and Curriculum – (Grades K-8) – free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor's Office 406/758-5204) – Interactive resource to promote awareness and appreciation of the cultural, environmental and experimental values of our natural resources. Activities and lessons in the curriculum are tied to a collection of teaching tools including animal skulls and skins, puppets, books, video and audio tapes, maps and more. For more information and to download the curriculum visit the following website: <http://www.wilderness.net>

Sally Snag – (Primary Grades) – free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor's Office 406/758-5204) – Bring a “dead” tree into your classroom, with Sally Snag! Sally shows kids how wildlife benefits from dead trees. Sally is easily set up with a fabric piece, tent poles, and hoola-hoops. Sally comes in a suitcase with an assortment of wildlife puppets and script. Sally can also become Sammy Snag depending on who is “playing the snag”.

Amphibian and Reptile Trunk – (Grades K-6) – *free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758-5204)* – Check out this trunk to discover what makes amphibians and reptiles so special. Videos, books, resource guides and a notebook full of suggested classroom activities make learning about the adaptations, conservation, and identification of Montana species fun! Trunk includes six junior size nets.

Bat Box – (Grades K-6) – *free from Flathead National Forest (call the Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758-5204)* – “Sleep all Day, Play all Night. What kids wouldn’t like bats?”— from poster in the trunk. Trunk contains bat puppets, books, posters and lots more to explore the life and history of bats.

Loon Trunk – (Grades pre-K-12) – *free from Montana Loon Society (or call the Flathead National Forest Supervisor’s Office 406/758-5204)* – Meet “Lottie” the Loon, who plays a true loon wail, learn how to identify a loon by dressing up a student, participate in games to learn how pollution is harmful to loons through the process of bioaccumulation, examine topographic maps to determine what lakes would make a good territory for a pair of nesting loons. This box contains a wealth of fun, hands-on items including a loon egg replica, puppets, scripts, videos, posters and much more to learn about Montana Loons. A three-ring notebook is full of lesson and activity ideas that meet Montana Content and Performance Standards for science, math, social studies, art, and language arts.

Traveling Medicine Show – (Grades K-12) – *free from the Hockaday Museum of Art (Contact Kathy Martin, 406/755-5268 or education@hockadaymuseum.org)* – First Nation artwork from the Northern Plains in three trunks: Trunk One: *Ancient Case* -- Bow and arrow, shield, parfleche etc. from long ago; Trunk Two: *Traditional Case* -- Ceremonial and everyday clothing, moccasins, dolls, cradle board, drum and pipe, decorative beadwork, etc.; Trunk Three: *Contemporary Case* -- Current art, artists, and traditions. Cost: \$150 for a full day – exhibit set up, presentations, art projects with 2-3 class sized groups. Cost is \$275 for a Blackfeet artist to come also.

Rolling Rivers Trailer – (Grades 3-12) – *free from Flathead County Conservation District (contact Outreach and Watershed Coordinator Patti Mason, 406/752-4220 fcd3@centurytel.net)* – Several types of river systems can be modeled using this large sandbox, plastic houses, vegetation, and, of course, water! Through this interactive display students learn how waterways and citizens can coexist. Patti or another certified trainer will accompany the trailer’s visit to your school as a guest speaker who can lead activities.

Bird ID and Costume Trunk – *free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email naz@centurytel.net)* - What’s a great way to learn about birds? By becoming one of course! This trunk provides a costume to dress your students up with all the major bird adaptations to turn them into “real” birds of a feather! Appropriate from Pre-school to Middle School.
<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Common Birds of the Flathead Trunk – *free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email naz@centurytel.net)* - Students will learn about the most visible birds around Flathead Valley. Trunk includes preserved bird specimens, slides, CD, pictures and worksheets! Appropriate from Elementary to High School. Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12.
<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Field Studies Trunk – *free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email naz@centurytel.net)* - There are two trunks of materials for the Field Studies: A classroom set of 18 *Petersen’s Bird Guides* and 10 binoculars for 4th or 5th grade and above. For younger students (Pre-school to 3rd or 4th grade) there is also a classroom set of 10 *Montana Birds* field guides and 10 smaller-sized binoculars. The second set can also be used by older students. Use of these trunks can help your students gain basic birding

skills including use and care of binoculars and bird identification techniques!

<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

The Changing Neighborhood Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email naz@centurytel.net) - Use felt figures to relay the story of environmental change and the effects of change on native species. Appropriate from Pre-school to Primary Elementary School.

<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Maggie the Magpie Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email naz@centurytel.net) - Have your students take Maggie the Magpie (a puppet) home and journal about her activities! This is a great one for getting those shy birds in your class to fledge! Appropriate for Elementary school. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Cavity Nesters Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email naz@centurytel.net) - Tell the wonderful story of life in dead trees! Students will explore the adaptations and life cycles of native birds that use dead trees for food and shelter. Trunk includes puppets, activity pages, preserved bird specimens, real cavity nests and much, much more! Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12. <http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Hummingbird Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email naz@centurytel.net) - Did you know a hummingbird only weighs as much as a penny? Learn all about this lightweight of the bird world with the Hummingbird Trunk! Trunk includes a 30 minute narrative with visual aids, puppets and puppet show scripts, specimens, research units on our native hummingbirds and a “humdinger” of a resource notebook. Linked to Montana Content and Performance Standards for K-12.

<http://www.flatheadaudubon.org/content/education/materials.htm>

Wetland and Riparian Studies Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Society (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email naz@centurytel.net) or Flathead Conservation District (call Patti Mason at 752-4220) - Developed in partnership with Flathead Audubon and the Flathead Conservation District for educating on the importance of wetland and riparian areas for protecting or improving water quality from nonpoint source pollution, and their importance for wildlife and habitat. Contains a variety of hands-on activities that are correlated to National Science Education Standards for K-12. Includes a developed a unit of study, with recommended activities.

Snowy Owls Whoo Are They? Book and Trunk – free from Flathead Audubon Chapter (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302 or email naz@centurytel.net). Audubon and the Owl Research Institute have joined together to develop this trunk based on the book written by Ansley Watson Ford and Denver Holt. Appropriate from Elementary to Middle School.

From the Tree 2 You! – developed by Women in Timber (Contact: Holly McKenzie, 406-892-4141, hmckenzie@centurytel.net) - Collection of reference materials, suggested activities and hands-on tools for learning about forests, forest products and tree species.

Forest Stewardship Education Trunk—(Grades 5-12)—free from Swan Ecosystem Center, 406 754-3137, or swanec3@blackfoot.net or for a fee of \$25/2 weeks or \$35/3 weeks from Montana Natural History Center or 406 327-0405. This trunk guides students through a variable plot timber cruise with the use of professional foresters’ tools. The cruise not only surveys the timber on a particular piece of land but also the shrubs and plants present and wildlife use on the land.

Besides a teachers’ guide and a set of lesson plans, the trunk includes six completely outfitted loggers’ vests, reference materials, a CD-Rom called Montana Forests Forever, created by the Montana Logging Association,

six stereoscopes for reading aerial photographs and a set of six plant and tree identification guides. The complete curriculum will enable students to write a management plan for the property surveyed. However, there are many components of the trunk that can be used without completing the curriculum. One of the most popular pieces is a tree's biography and another is using tree cookies to see the relationship between circumference and diameter.

Aquatic Box, Cat Box, Elk Trunk, Furbearer Box, & Canine/Ungulate Box – free from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (call the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Kalispell Office 406/752-5501) – Five trunks circulate locally and contain skulls and pelts: Aquatic Box, Cat Box, Furbearer Box, & Wolf Ungulate Box. For a list of 47 trunks (cost variable, free to \$150) found in MT, ID, WA, OR see: <http://fwp.mt.gov/education/schoolprograms/edtrunks.html>

Indian Education for All Book Club Trunks – free from NW Montana Educational Cooperative (call NW MT Educational Coop Office 406/752-3302, <http://www.nwmteeducationalcoop.org>).

Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Trunk – developed by the Glacier Institute (call the Main Office, 755-1211) – Did you know much of NW Montana falls within the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem? Borrow this trunk to learn more about the inter-connections throughout this ecosystem.

Other educational trunks may be obtained (often for a fee plus shipping) from organizations outside the Flathead Valley. See these websites for more information:

The Montana Watercourse at Montana State University – Scholarships available for free rentals. Please inquire. Otherwise trunks are \$25 per rental or \$10 if you pick them up in Bozeman. Eight trunks: Ground Water Flow; Montana Liquid Treasure History; Stream Ecology; Pond; Enviroscope R Model; Water Literature; Upper Clark Fork Teaching Science and Social Studies. www.mtwatercourse.org/Educators/trunks.htm

Museum of the Rockies – (Grades K-8) – \$35 plus shipping. Call 406/994-5282.
4 NASA Outreach trunks: Living In Space, Rocketry, Space Exploration, and Planets: <http://www.museumoftherockies.org/education/NASAtunks/index.html>
8 additional trunks: Archeaology, Dinosaur, Homesteading, Landforms/Lifeforms, Paper-making, Science!, Songbird, Telescope: <http://www.centralpt.com/pageview.aspx?id=1450>

Montana Historical Society – (Grades K-8) – 19 hands-on history footlockers! To order, call the Society's Education Office at 406/444-4741 or email jsaylor@mt.gov. Please book early. – Footlockers contain reproduction artifacts, photographs, cassette tapes or videos, clothing, and tools related to the topic. User Guides contain: historical narratives; a bibliography; compliance with Montana Standards for Social Studies; and lessons. <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/education/footlocker/default.asp>

Guide to Educational Trunks in the Northern Rockies (2001). This list can be searched by city and state. <http://www.thenaturecenter.org/resources/trunkguide>